

humanist, and a post-Brechtian East German, bear witness to the fact that the *Philoctetes* continues to inspire contemporary creative writers of widely different ideological bent to produce thoughtful dramas, but more than anything else, it encourages us to reread and rethink the original and enduring Sophoclean *Philoctetes*.

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J. P. Sullivan. *Literature and Politics in the Age of Nero*. Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 1985. Pp. 218. \$22.50 (cloth).

Evolving from the Charles Beebe Martin Lectures at Oberlin College in 1976, the present book is an interesting and liberally annotated study of "political literature" in Neronian times. Sullivan posits that there were many upper-class literary "circles" of writers, but that the most important by far was Nero's, and Sullivan imaginatively describes this coterie's nature and many of those he takes to be its members: Lucan, Piso, Silius Italicus, Vitellius, Petronius, etc. He further postulates that the literary vogue amongst the Neronians was a species of Callimacheanism, and adduces that it was such cultishness that the outsider Persius satirizes and attacks, but that the smooth arbiter Petronius puffs and extols. It almost goes without saying that, in such a political presentation, Seneca and Lucan are conceived as bring the "opposition" figures, the ones being alienated and forced out at court.

As it turns out, Sullivan is a bit paradoxical. On the one hand, he stresses that Nero has been blackened more than he should be: the Emperor was, after all, sensitive enough to love and to foster literature, art, and culture. On the other hand, Sullivan usually maintains that virtually everyone's dominant motive for pursuing the arts in Nero's world was crass self-interest: power and lucre. With all of this emphasis upon "political literature," in fact, one might get the impression that, in the Neronian age, all politics utilized literature, and that all literature was political—a conclusion that would be far too simplistic.

Over all, Sullivan's investigations and hypotheses are engaging, but his conjectures are and must remain hypotheticals. We simply possess too little evidence to know for once and all the makeup of Neronian literary cliques, their attitudes and values, or their covert political machinations (if any). The book must remain, therefore, an attractive collection of curious speculation and gossip.

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#### 1987 ACL Institute and Workshops Preliminary Call for Papers and Workshops

The fortieth Annual American Classical League Institute and Workshops will be held at Georgetown University, Washington, D.C., June 17-20, 1987. Individual papers and presentations in workshop format are solicited in the following areas:

- Latin authors (including workshops on the teaching of an author): Cicero, Catullus, Horace, Plautus, Vergil
- Aspects of Classical culture: history, sports, religion, slavery, etc.
- Medieval Latin prose and verse in the classroom
- Latin declamation and composition
- Computer-assisted instruction in the Latin classroom
- Extra-curricular activities for Latin classes
- Games in the Latin classroom
- Methods of testing and evaluation of Latin students
- Programs, projects, and activities for JCL
- Increasing enrollment in Latin Second Year and beyond

Proposals on other topics will, of course, be considered. Proposals are invited from teachers at all levels, from elementary school through university. Please submit a 100 to 300-word description with title for a workshop or paper to Prof. Judith Lynn Sebesta, ACL Vice President, Dept. of Classics, Univ. of South Dakota, Vermillion, SD 57069; indicate audio-visual equipment required, if any. Unless otherwise proposed, workshops will be assumed to be one hour in length, papers twenty minutes in length. Deadline for submissions is February 1, 1987.

